Pending Projects of Gujarat and Orissa

*326. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Ministe rof PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the projects of Gujarat and Orissa pending clearance with the Planing Commission;

(b) the year when these pending projects were submitted and the reasons for which so much delay has occurred; and

(c) what is the position of the following projects: (i) conversion of Veraval - Rajkot meter gauge section into broad gauge (ii) gas-based Pipavan Power House; and (iii) multipurpose Khambhat bridge-cum-road project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No project of Gujarat is pending with the Planning Commission for investment clearance. However, one project of Orissa, namely, Deo irrigation project is pending in the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

(b) The above irrigation project of Orissa was considered and found acceptable for investment clearance in the 51st meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources hald on 4-12-1991. The Planning Commission considers the investment clearance of Major and Medium irrigation projects only on reference and positive recommendation from the administrative Ministry. A decision on investment clearance by Planning Commission for this project will depend upon the priority to be fixed by the State Government to this project with in the availability of resources in Orissa's Eighth Plan, which is yet to be finalised.

(c) (i) The proposal for converting Veraval Rajkot Section of Railways from meter gauge to broad gauge was received in Planning Commission in September, 1988 and was cleared in March 1989 for inclusion in the Railways Eighth Five-Year Plan.

(ii) The Pipavan Gas Based Power Project was techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority in October, 1989 subject to confirmation of gas availability by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Gas allocation has still not been confirmed.

(iii) There is no specific project known as "Multi purpose Khambhat bridge Cum road project".

Extension of Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme

*327. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the procurement charges for cotton of the Cotton Corporation of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has asked for extension to its Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for ten years; and

(c) if so, what decision Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Cotton Corporation of India procures cotton at the minimum support prices fixed by the Government whenever the market prices of kapas fall below the support prices fixed by the Government. Otherwise, it undertakes.

commercial purchase of kapas at the prevailing market prices for meeting the requirements of institutional buyers like National Textile Corporation, State Textile Corporations, Cooperative Spinning Mills etc. against firm indents and for fulfilling the export quotas alloted to it by the Government.

(b) and (c) The Government of Maharashtra had sought extension of the Scheme of Monopoly Procurement of Cotton in the State for a period of 10 years w.e.f. 1st July, 1990. Govt. have granted extension to the Scheme for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 1st July, 1990 on the existing terms and conditons.

Introduction of a Fresh Bill for placing Handloom Reservation Act under Ninth Schedule

*328. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Bill 1990 which sought to place the handloom reservation law under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution has been lapsed;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a fresh Bill for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Handloom Reservation Act and the orders issued thereunder are at present stayed under orders of the Court. The case is pending for disposal in the Supreme Court. Government wants to await judgement of the Court before taking a decision regarding inclusion of the Act in the IX Schedule.

Bi-Lingual Computer facility for Indian Mission Abroad

*329. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Indian missions abroad have bi-lingual computer procesing facility if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, what is the time-bound programme to provide bi-lingual computing facility and training in Indian missions abroad; and

(c) whether there are adequate computing facilities and technical manpower support to ensure full bilingual computerisation and development of advanced technology and Strategic Information Database to provide the right kind of information to the right kind of agencies in India without loss of time?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government's policy is to istal computers in Indian Missions and Posts abroad in a phased manner, keeping in view their functional requirements with regard to areas of work including the need for bi-lingual capabilities. Training is provided on the basis of functional requirements. All Indian missions abroad are equipped to convey requisite information to the Government and other agencies with minimum loss of time. Steps are constantly being taken to upgrade these facilities.

U.S. help for resolving Kashmir Dispute

*330. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: